

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Status:

Breton National Wildlife Refuge remains closed to public entry and low-level over-flights and landings continue to be prohibited to protect nesting birds. The refuge's nesting islands have been surrounded with 4.1 miles of boom to protect them.

Weather conditions for May 19: Winds from the Southeast at 12-15 knots in the morning, higher gusts in the evening. 4-5 foot seas, protected waters are rough.

Twenty-five national wildlife refuges could potentially be impacted.

The response:

More than 200 U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel are involved in the response.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Acting Director Rowan Gould and Senior Science Advisor Dr. Ralph Morgenweck participated in a media conference call May 18 to discuss the oil spill impact. Audio of the call here:

http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php?g2_itemId=870382

FWS surveillance and recovery teams were deployed May 18, including more than 20 boat crews, four land crews and five helicopter crews.

Air Operations observed a bird nesting colony in the Biloxi Marsh consisting of hundreds of nesting terns, laughing gulls and some pelicans. Boat crews were actively deploying booms within 50 feet of nesting terns and gulls. Other flights observed oil streaks along shoreline of many islands in the Chandeleur Sound area.

Black oil, heavy emulsions, and tar balls were observed again in South Pass, Southeast Pass, and Pass-a-Loutre. Oiled wildlife were observed in these areas and on Delta NWR.

Current efforts to mitigate impacts to refuges and wildlife in Louisiana continue, as well as significant ongoing work to prepare for potential impacts across the coasts Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and the west coast of Florida.

The spill by the numbers:

The following is a synopsis of daily response efforts:

Total response vessels: 970

Containment Boom deployed: more than 1.38 million feet

Containment boom available: more than 380,000 feet

Sorbent boom deployed: more than 530,000 feet

Sorbent boom available: more than 845,000 feet

Total boom deployed: more than 1.91 million feet (regular plus sorbent boom)

Total boom available: more than 1.22 million feet (regular plus sorbent boom)

Oily water recovered: more than 7.87 million gallon

Dispersant used: more than 600,000 gallons

Dispersant available: more than 310,000 gallons

Overall personnel responding: more than 19,400

17 staging areas are in place and ready to protect sensitive shorelines. These areas include:

- Dauphin Island, Ala.
- Orange Beach, Ala.
- Theodore, Ala.
- Panama City, Fla.
- Pensacola, Fla.
- Port St. Joe, Fla.
- St. Marks, Fla.
- Amelia, La.
- Cocodrie, La.
- Grand Isle, La.
- Shell Beach, La.
- Slidell, La.
- St. Mary, La.
- Venice, La.
- Biloxi, Miss.
- Pascagoula, Miss.
- Pass Christian, Miss.